



Issue 1 • Thursday, June 26

Seattle welcomes Optometry's Meeting™ 2008



For the next three days, Seattle opens its arms to welcome thousands of optometrists at Optometry's Meeting™. Nicknamed the "Emerald City" for the lush evergreens that ring it, Seattle is famed for the Space Needle, left, ferry boats that traverse the Puget Sound and coffee.

AOA House of Delegates to consider a slate of resolutions

The AOA House of Delegates is scheduled to consider as many as six resolutions when it convenes today, covering topics such as professional conduct, identifying missing children and urging closer cooperation between the AOA and school nurses.

The first resolution, titled "Standards of Professional Conduct," addresses patient autonomy, non-malfeasance, beneficence, justice, and non-patient professional relationships.

The resolution notes that optometrists have the duty to look after the best interests of their patients with regard to eye, vision and general health. In addition, the ethical optometrist strives to protect and enhance the health and welfare of the public in general.

The Standards of Professional Conduct, along with the Code of Ethics, is intended to be a written expression of, and a continuing commitment to, professional and ethical behavior for optometrists.

The second resolution, "Child Project Iris Scan Child Identification System," would support the use of the Child Project as a tool for law enforcement to identify children and would encourage affiliate state associations and member optometrists to help staff and raise funds for local law enforcement to aid in the identification of children.

The Child Project is a child identification and location database available to all law enforcement agencies across the country via the Internet using iris code scanning for identification purposes and offers the most accurate and least invasive biometric known today.

The iris code scanning provides one more layer in identification verification when used alongside phot-

tographs, fingerprints, and DNA analysis, but the expense involved in the project is usually outside local law enforcement budgets.

The third resolution, "Affiliate Legal and Legislative Defense Fund Re-Evaluation Study," would allow for the appointment of a project team to re-evaluate and study the current and future organizational structure and intended

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Presidents' Council convenes



William D. Tanke, O.D., president of the Florida Optometric Association (at far left, in blue), describes how other groups are spreading disinformation in his state and others, during the Presidents' Council yesterday. The leaders of state and affiliated optometric associations discussed areas of mutual concern as a group, and also in breakout sessions, such as the one shown, which focused on legislative issues and was moderated by Andrew Sacco, O.D., and Jeannette Holland, O.D. During the meeting, state leaders agreed to hold alternating winter meetings outside of St. Louis. Other breakouts covered communications and membership issues.

U.S. House votes to postpone Medicare payment cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives voted on Tuesday to postpone a planned cut in payments to physicians, including optometrists, who treat Medicare patients, by approving a reduction in payouts to private insurers. The bill, which AOA and a coalition of physician groups has supported, passed 355 to 59, a veto-proof majority. The legislation postpones a 10.6 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors and hospitals for 18 months. Media reports note that Democrats warned that such a decrease would lead to many physicians opting out of treating Medicare patients.

The measure would increase Medicare payments to doctors by 1.1 percent next year. Currently, physicians face another cut of about 10 percent in January because of a complex formula that reduces payments when spending would otherwise exceed certain goals. The bill pays for these changes by reducing federal payments to private Medicare Advantage plans, offered by insurers like Humana, UnitedHealth, and many Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies.

The measure is similar to a bill in the Senate, which previously had fallen short of the 60 votes needed to move forward. Senate lawmakers have been working on a compromise version aimed at avoiding a White House veto.

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1. Data on file. 2017. Interim analysis, clinical study. Advanced Medical Optics, Inc., Santa Rosa, CA.
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AMO explores new frontiers

AMO sponsored "A New Frontier in Optometry: Exploring Options in Surgical Co-management," on Wednesday afternoon. The panel of primary care practitioners reviewed the latest information on anterior segment conditions and covered case studies.

At right, lecturers Michael DePaolis, O.D., D. Devries, O.D., Paul Karpecki, O.D., and K. Mastrotta, O.D., discuss several different infections, inflammatory conditions, corneal staining situations and contact lens-induced problems. Below, course attendees interact with the lecturers using electronic devices.



The popular New in Practice— Panel of Experts Series has returned to Optometry's Meeting™

Thanks to a generous education grant from CIBA Vision, expert optometrists and world-class lecturers will cover a comprehensive range of practice management topics that impact new practitioners or those preparing to change practice settings.

Attendees can join one or more sessions and bolster their confidence and practice management savvy by attending the New in Practice Series today and tomorrow.

Optometrists and paraoptometrists, as well as students, may register on site at the AOA's Registration Desk.

The 2008 New in Practice Series will include three information-packed sessions:

"Marketing & Networking for Practice Growth" today from noon to 2 p.m. Lecturers are Michael Bacigalupi, O.D., and Keith Davis, O.D., who note that growth of an optometric practice depends upon the ability to attract and retain patients. While "word of mouth" remains the best form of marketing for most practices, it is important to understand the role of other marketing tools to stimulate growth.

This course will review marketing strategies and suggest creation of a year-long strategic plan to maximize the return on marketing investments. Personal and professional networking will be discussed as methods to supplement and sustain practice growth.

"The Doctor's Role in Setting Up & Running an Optical" today from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Lecturers Chad Fleming, O.D., and Ankur Kalra, O.D., will provide a step-by-step process to set up and be profitable with an optical. It will cover demographic analysis, vendor selection

and relationships, patient purchasing trends, inventory management, lab pricing negotiations, going direct or through a buying group, training staff, and other insights.

"Financial Management" on Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Lecturers Keith Davis, O.D., and Laurie Sorrenson, O.D., noting that a successful optometric practice relies on sound financial fundamentals, will discuss concepts such as cash flow, gross versus net profits, tax considerations for the sole proprietor or S-corporation and retirement planning. Developing a business plan to acquire financing for opening a practice will also be presented and discussed. The participant will leave with a good basic understanding of the financial aspects of starting and running a practice.

2007 series on DVD-ROM

The 2007 series is available on a synchronized DVD-ROM for \$49.

The New in Practice program presented in 2007 included the following sessions:

- Billing and Coding
- Setting Up an Optical
- Financial Management
- New Technologies in Optometric Practice

The DVD-ROM features a live-session audio synchronized with the speakers' PowerPoint presentations.

To order, visit www.twosense.com/aoa2007/index.html or call 858-635-5969.

The DVD-ROM is also available on loan from the International Library, Archives and Museum of Optometry (ILAMO).

For more information, contact Mary Beth Cadwell at 800-365-2219, ext. 4118.



Welcome to the AOA's 2008 Optometry's Meeting™

On behalf of Advanced Medical Optics (AMO), it is my pleasure to welcome you to Seattle, home of the Optometry's Meeting™: 111th Annual AOA Congress & 38th Annual AOSA Conference. It is a great place to be in 2008 and this year's meeting has much to offer for practicing optometrists, researchers, educators, students and families.

The AOA consistently provides high-quality, current — and innovative — continuing education and the 2008 Optometry's Meeting™ in Seattle promises to continue that rich tradition.

It is always exciting and energizing to see many eye care professionals from across the country gather to learn about the latest innovations from the most knowledgeable leaders in optometry.

I expect the Seattle meeting to be a memorable educational experience. AMO strives each year to present cutting-edge information and offer a glimpse of the future in contact lens care products and anterior segment evaluation and treatment. At this year's meeting you will experience a host of innovative sessions and formats. This year, we are proud to sponsor the Wednesday free educational symposium. The panel presentation titled, "A New Frontier in Optometry: Exploring Options in Surgical Co-management," presented advancements in surgical co-management and suggestions on practice enhancement by experts. We hope you were able to join us for a fun and informative update in cataract and refractive surgery.

We are happy to join our prestigious industry colleagues in the sold-out exhibit hall to showcase our new tear product, Blink Tears, launched early this year.

Please stop by our AMO Booth #729 to visit us. We wish you an enjoyable Congress and look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely, David W. Hansen, OD, FAAO (DipCL)
Director, Global Professional Services

ODs, students invited to share photos online

As part of the AOA's coverage of Optometry's Meeting™, we have three Flickr addresses set up to allow attendees to share their photos online. For those of you who are not familiar with Flickr, it is a popular, Yahoo-owned photo-sharing community Web site. The AOA staff can't print coverage from late events like the Super Bowl and iConnect that occur after press time in the daily newspaper, so we invite attendees to check out our photos online AND help us in covering optometry's premier meeting.

Here anyone can post photos and comments on the photos each day.

General Optometry's Meeting™: www.flickr.com/groups/optometrysmeeting2008/

This is for any attendee to share shots of their Optometry's

Meeting™ experience as well as pictures of Seattle.

Optometry Super Bowl: www.flickr.com/groups/ob2008/

This is specifically for members of the American Optometric Student Association to share pictures from the Varilux Optometry Super Bowl XVII and reception. Some shots from 2007 are already posted.

iConnect: www.flickr.com/groups/iconnect2008/

This is specifically for the iConnect party on Friday night.

To share photos, you will need a Yahoo ID. Signing up is free and fast at www.flickr.com. Please note that the AOA is not involved with Flickr financially or any other way...we just wanted a free, easy-to-use way to offer AOA members a chance to see what's going on at Optometry's Meeting™ this week.

Take opportunities to see the sites of Seattle

The next few days are packed with educational sessions, networking and exhibit hall explorations. But squeeze out a few hours here and there to explore some of Seattle's finest offerings, all within a few blocks of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

Most of the attractions are within an easy walk of the convention center. However, if you'd prefer, you can hop a city bus for free in the downtown core. (Unless otherwise noted, the locations below all fall within that zone.) One thing you likely won't see this week—Seattle's famous rain.



The Space Needle offers a view of all of Seattle. To upload your photos, go to www.flickr.com/groups/optometrys-meeting-2008/

all, there are 200 190 artisans, plus street performers making for one lively shopping experience.

Iconic images

No visit to Seattle would be complete without stops at some of the most famous images the city has birthed. The Pike Place Public Market, located about eight blocks outside the convention center, has 100 years of history behind it, but perhaps it's best known for the fellows who fling fish. They're at Pike Place Fish and offer services to ship the fish home for you. The Market offers other area favorites, too, including coffee, cherries and wines. In businesses and

stars and urchins.

A touch of culture

Seattle's newest offering is SAM, the Seattle Art Museum. The museum, located a couple of blocks east of Pike Place, has more than 23,000 items in its permanent collection. Currently, "Inspiring Impressionism: The Impressionists and Art of the Past," features works by Cezanne, Manet and Degas.

SAM's sister museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum is a little farther out (and outside the downtown core). A worldwide collection of Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Indian and Southeast Asian art



Watch for flying fish at Pike Place Fish Company.

is always on display and worth the cab ride.

At the opposite end of the cultural spectrum is the Underground Tour, a humorous look at the city's history. When a fire hit Seattle in 1889, the city just rebuilt on top of itself. Below, it left a remark-

View from the top

Another, more famous way to "see" Seattle is from the Space Needle. Located 520 feet above the city, it offers a breathtaking view. While there, check out the free SkyQ kiosks, which zoom in on iconic city sites and hidden treasures, while offering a narrated tour. SkyCity restaurant serves Pacific Northwest cuisine and a spectacular view in the evening.



Take a minute to enjoy the street performers throughout the city.

Also in the vicinity is perhaps the thing that Seattle is most known for these days—Starbucks. Yes, there seems to be one of these stores on every corner in the city. However, the first store in this vast outlet is just outside Pike Place and due to historic design guidelines at the market, it looks much as it did in 1971.

After leaving Pike Place, venture a few blocks further to the waterfront area. (Look for the pedestrian overpass to better cross the Alaskan Way Viaduct.) There you'll find restaurants, dinner cruises and the famed Washington state ferries. The Seattle Aquarium is also on the waterfront. See otters, octopus and birds that fly underwater as well as touch sea

able subterranean world, which preserved life as it was in the late 1800s in Seattle's downtown. The 90-minute tour launches from a restored 1890s saloon in Pioneer Square, two blocks east of the waterfront. The tour is somewhat rugged with six flights of stairs, uneven pathways and dark lighting. Tours are offered in the daytime; at night, the tour focuses on Seattle's old red light district.

The Smith Tower, just outside of Pioneer Square, boasts a 35th floor open-air observation deck. Ride to the top in the building's original 1914 Otis elevators, run by uniformed operators. The Tower offers views of Mt. Rainier and the Olympic and Cascade ranges.



The original Starbucks Coffee location retains much of its original look.



The See-attle Times is presented by the AOA Communications Group thanks to AMO's sponsorship. To submit a news tip, idea for coverage, or photo, drop a line to Daily@aoa.org. Issues will be published Thursday, June 26; Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28. Copies are dropped off at the doors of many Optometry's Meeting™ hotel rooms and at kiosks throughout the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

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McJannet, D. (2006). *Confidential government officials' beliefs, 2003, 2004, 2005*. Ottawa: Canadian Institute for Public Administration.

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an 11.0% share of flights from the United Kingdom. The UK's top 10 airports are London Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton, with the UK's top 10 airports in terms of flights to United States, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Chicago, and the UK's top 10 airports in terms of flights to United Kingdom, London Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. The UK's top 10 airports in terms of flights to United States, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Chicago, and the UK's top 10 airports in terms of flights to United Kingdom, London Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.



Paraoptometric Section offers full schedule of activities

The AOA Paraoptometric Section is offering a fantastic range of courses at Optometry's Meeting™.

There will be more than 50 hours of continuing education offered this year for paraoptometrics.

All courses are approved by the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification for continuing education credit and are acceptable for certification renewal requirements.

The Vision Care Institute, LLC, a Johnson & Johnson company, is sponsoring the Thursday and Saturday paraoptometric education program.

CIBA Vision is sponsoring the Paraoptometric of the Year Awards Luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. today.

At the luncheon, the Paraoptometric Section will bestow its most prestigious award, the Paraoptometric of the Year Award, to a special member.

The Community Service Award and State Affiliate Membership Recruitment Award will be presented at the luncheon as well.

Transitions Optical is sponsoring tomorrow's paraoptometric education program.

Also, tomorrow morning, the section will hold its election breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. This event is in conjunction with the election of the 2008-2009 AOA Paraoptometric Section Council.

The CPC will be holding written examinations on Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and practical examinations on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. CIBA Vision is the sponsor of the Paraoptometric Certification Program.

The Paraoptometric Section Annual Reception is tomorrow night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy dancing and attendance prizes.

Saturday offers the Paraoptometric State Leaders' Meeting from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. for all state leaders interested in networking with other state leaders.

The Exhibit Hall will feature dedicated paraoptometric hours on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Paraoptometrics can enter a cash giveaway contest by the AOA.

Exhibit Hall has something for everyone

With more than 190 exhibitors, the Optometry's Meeting™ Exhibit Hall in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center has everything attendees are looking for—new technology, innovative products, and daily events and giveaways.

The exhibit hall ribbon-cutting ceremony will kick things off today at 4 p.m.

The Washington Wine Experience, sponsored by HOYA, will be featured throughout the extended hall hours of 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. this evening.

The exhibit hall will be open Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with Microbrew Mania hosted by the AOA from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Exhibit Hall hours will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday with student and paraoptometric focus hours from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For the first time, the Exhibit Hall will feature the New Technology and Product Showcase Theater.

Today, the theater will feature "Current Trends in Contact Lens Materials, Design and Modality," sponsored by CooperVision from 4:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.

This presentation will cover new designs and materials that enable the practitioner to take advantage of current trends in fitting contact lenses and will address challenges regarding contact lens

surface properties, changing demographics, compliance and patient health concerns.

Later tonight, Alcon will sponsor "A New Option in Management of Dry Eye Disease" from 5:30 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

This showcase will introduce the latest technology designed for the dry eye patient and feature options for management of dry eye disease that are much more sophisticated after years of research and development.

Friday morning, the New Technology and Product Showcase Theater will feature "Freeform and You: Shamir Autograph® and Direct Lens Technology," sponsored by Shamir Insight from 11:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

The presentation will showcase the Shamir Autograph family of individually back-surface-designed lenses, which include a patient's personal attributes in the design to provide a customized progressive addition lens.

Tomorrow afternoon, Vistakon® is sponsoring "The Latest in Toric Technology" from 12:30 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. in the theater.

An experienced practitioner who participated in a recent field trial involving hundreds of astigmatic patients will provide the latest scoop on a new innovation in toric technology coming soon.

Vistakon® is also sponsoring "Mythbusters: Myths vs. Real-

ity When Fitting Kids in Contact Lenses" from 1:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

A leading expert on fitting pre-teens in contact lenses will take on common myths about fitting children 12 and younger using tips from practice and data from the Contact Lens in Pediatrics study.

Freebies

There will also be free daily CE in the AOA Education Theater, with courses sponsored by Advanced Medical Optics, Alcon, OfficeMate, Transitions, and VSP.

Free Optometry's Meeting™ t-shirts and commemorative pins will be available courtesy of the AOA.

Vistakon® will provide a free commemorative tote bag in addition to its sponsorship of the Cyber Café and locator kiosks. The Cyber Café is located in booth #2219 in the Exhibit Hall.

Marchon is providing \$10 lunch coupons redeemable on Friday or Saturday in the Exhibit Hall. Visit Marchon's booth #707 to exchange the voucher for a lunch coupon.

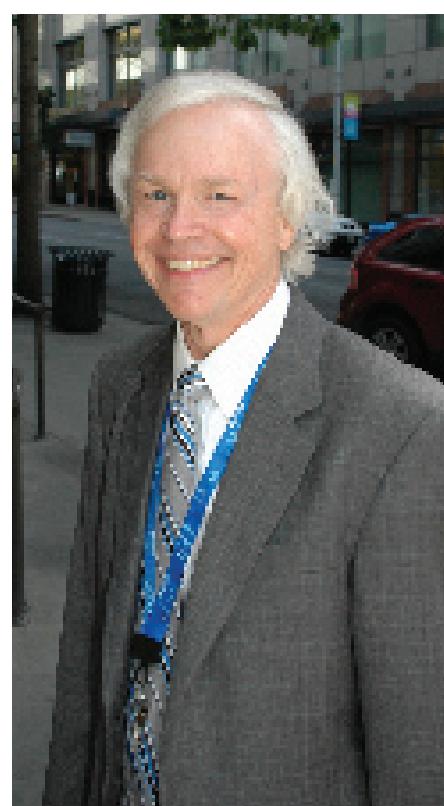
Attendees can also register for chances to win "Money-to-Burn" prizes, a home entertainment system courtesy of HOYA, or a luggage and American Express gift card giveaway courtesy of the AOA.

Where Are You in Your Pursuit of Happyness?



"My kids are the source of my happiness."
Scott Campbell, O.D.
Seattle, Wash.

I am happy."
Kerry Beebe, O.D.
Brainerd, Minn.



"Well on my way."
Penny Vizina, O.D.
Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Wide-ranging education slated for today

Immediately following the Opening General Session, Alcon, in collaboration with the Review of Optometry, will sponsor "The Handbook of Ocular Disease Management: Focus on the Cornea," today from 10 a.m. to noon. (Lecturers: Andrew Gurnwood, O.D.; A. Kabat, O.D.; and J. Sowka, O.D.)

The authors of "The Handbook of Ocular Disease" will discuss various disorders of the conjunctiva and cornea, including clinical presentation, pathophysiology and management strategies. Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the handbook. Register for course #1010.

VisionWeb is the general education sponsor for Thursday courses.

Marco is sponsoring "Gaining Greater Efficiency and Profitability in Your Practice Through the Use of Automated Refraction Systems," course #1512, from noon to 1 p.m. (Lecturer: Lou Catania, O.D.)

This course will focus on maximizing the potential of the automated refractor.

Paragon is sponsoring "The Design and Fitting of Specialty GP Lenses," course #1812, from noon to 1 p.m. (Lecturer: P. Caroline)

This course will review the wide range of modern innovations emerging in gas permeable lenses. A series of case histories will be presented showing the success of these new modalities in addressing the physical and optical needs of specific patients.

Allergan is sponsoring "Glaucoma Today: Agree or Disagree," course #1013, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Lecturers: H. Barnebey, M.D., H. DuBiner, M.D., Murray Fingeret, O.D., and B. Gaddie, O.D.)

This course will review controversial areas in glaucoma, including imaging as a standard of care,

the importance of the concept of corrected intraocular pressure, and new diagnostic instruments.

CooperVision is sponsoring "Emerging Trends in Contact Lenses," course #1113, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Lecturers: M. Andre; D. Kading, O.D.; J. Smythe, O.D.)

This course will cover the new lens materials and their interactions with solutions and assist in matching them to patients for maximum corneal health.

Following "Gas Permeable Lens Video Grand Rounds Part One" from noon to 1 p.m. (course #1612), GPLI is sponsoring "Gas Permeable Lens Video Grand Rounds Part Two: GP Presbyopic Fitting and Problem-Solving," course #1213, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Lecturers: E. Bennett, O.D., P. Caroline, and C. Sindt, O.D.)

This course will include a brief presentation on how GPs used for presbyopia can help build an optometric practice and be personally rewarding as well. A series of case studies will also be presented.

Heidelberg Engineering is sponsoring "Retinal Grand Rounds: The Impact of New Technologies and the DME Patient," course #1313, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Lecturers: Anthony Cavallaro, O.D., and R. Dunphy, O.D.)

The course will explore the role of the optometrist in detecting some of the most prevalent conditions, such as macular degeneration and diabetes, and how new technologies can be integrated into clinical practice.

Cynacon/OCuSOFT will sponsor the specialty course "Life on the Edge" today from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Lecturer: K. Mastrotta, O.D.)

This course will discuss the diagnosis and management of ocular surface disease and dry eye. Register for course #1115.

First Insight is sponsoring

"How EMR Made My Practice a Success: A Day in the Life of an Integrated Practice," course #1515, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Lecturer: K. Kersick, O.D.)

The course will detail how electronic medical records (EMRs) can enhance the quality of patient care and improve the overall management of an optometric practice.

Inspire Pharmaceuticals is sponsoring "Corneal Staining and Contact Lenses: The Truth," course #1615, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Lecturers: Paul Karpecki, O.D., K. Nichols, O.D., Ph.D., MPH, and Jack Schaeffer, O.D.)

This course will present the latest information on corneal staining in respect to recent research and the implications on ocular health.

Synergeyes is sponsoring "Fitting Irregular Corneas: Hybrid Technology," course #1815, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Lecturer: W. Choate, O.D.)

The course covers fitting and clinical considerations of hybrid contact lenses, various applications and indications for use.

The Education Theater will feature "Co-Management of Retinal Disease," course #T131, sponsored by Alcon from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Lecturer: J. Pizzimenti, O.D.)

This free interactive course will use clinical cases to present timely topics in the co-management of retinal disease.

The Education Theater will feature "Meeting the Needs of Your Hispanic Patients," course #T132, sponsored by Transitions from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Lecturer: Hector Santiago, O.D., Ph.D.)

The dean of the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry will discuss obstacles in providing quality eye care to this group and will identify strategies that eye care professionals can put into practice during this free program.

Set your alarm early tomorrow

Friday morning at Optometry's Meeting™ will be filled with continuing education geared toward both new and longtime practitioners and everyone in between.

Attendees can start the day with a free breakfast seminar.

AMO is sponsoring "Drops and Drugs: Can You 'Cure' Chronic Dry Eye?" course #B201, from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Optometrists will debate the possibility of curing dry eye versus just managing the clinical signs and symptoms with drops, drugs and plugs. (Lecturers: S. Morris, O.D.; K. Nichols, O.D., Ph.D., MPH)

Bausch & Lomb is sponsoring a free breakfast seminar, "Contact Lens Care System Grand Rounds: A Clinician's Assessment of Solution Compatibility," course #B202, from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. (Lecturer: R. Robinson, O.D.) The course will highlight contact lens care compliance issues as the No. 1 issue facing doctors as they strive to keep their patients' eyes healthy.

Allergan is sponsoring "The Latest and Greatest News in Optometry," course #2008, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. (Moderator: S. Morris, O.D., Lecturers: J. Gerson, O.D.; K. Mastrotta, O.D.; M. Pohl, O.D.; C. Quinn, O.D.) A panel of experts will review several articles appearing in the past 12 months and provide a synopsis of the articles and discuss their relevancy to clinical optometry.

House of Delegates

Continued from page 1

goals for an Affiliate Legal and Legislative Defense Fund program.

The project team would consider matching grants, streamlined application criteria, an immediate funding decision processes, affiliate financial needs, the challenges of pending legal and legislative actions that call for funding assistance, and other relevant elements.

The fourth resolution, "Importance of Comprehensive Eye and Vision Examinations," supports the mission of the non-profit charitable and education organization Vision First Foundation to raise the standards of eye care so no child will attend school with an

undetected and untreated eye or vision problem.

The AOA would recognize the "Kid's Eyes Count Campaign" by Vision First Foundation as a valuable program of education for parents, schools, and the public and emphasize that vision screenings are not substitutes for eye examinations.

The fifth resolution, "Calculation of Optometric Educator Class as it Relates to Delegate Voting Strength Count," would allow Optometric Educator Class members to be counted as full members rather than one-half members beginning with the June 2010 annual Congress for the purpose of calculating the delegate voting strength of each affiliate association on matters before the

House of Delegates

If passed, the AOA Board of Trustees would submit a bylaws amendment to the House of Delegates in June 2009, which if adopted would go into effect immediately.

The resolution notes the contributions of faculty in terms of time, idea generation and implementation and financial resources far beyond one-half member status.

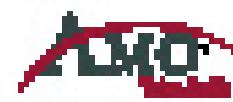
The final proposed resolution, "Recognition of the Role School Nurses Play in the Health Care of Students," commends America's school nurses for their dedicated and unselfish role in the health care of the nation's students and pledges the AOA's support to school nurses as they carry out their important mission of oversee-

ing and monitoring the health and well-being of the nation's school-age children.

The resolution notes that optimal eye health and vision are essential requirements for children to reach their full potential and that school nurses frequently encounter clinically significant ocular health and vision conditions in the school-age population.

School nurses provide appropriate triage and referrals of many primary eye and vision care conditions, which left undetected or untreated would negatively impact children's learning and academic achievement.

The AOA Resolutions Committee is scheduled to present the resolutions to the House of Delegates at 12:20 p.m.



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